



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/773,337	01/31/2001	Anil K. Singhani	FIS9-2000-0281	5977

7590 08/18/2004

McGuireWoods, LLP  
Suite 1800  
1750 Tysons Boulevard  
McLean, VA 22102

EXAMINER


HOFFMAN, BRANDON S

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

2136

DATE MAILED: 08/18/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	Application No. 09/773,337	Applicant(s) SINGHANI ET AL. 	
	Examiner Brandon Hoffman	Art Unit 2136	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.  
     4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 January 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
     Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
     Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).  
     a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____.  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - Beginning on page 10, line 25 through page 11, line 3, reference numbers 60-64 should be 50-54, respectively.Appropriate correction is required.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102*

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

3. Claims 1-7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Starr (U.S. Patent No. 6,606,606).

Regarding claims 1 and 7, Starr teaches a process/data processing system for managing business, technical and operational data which uses a single interface in a shared space environment over the Internet comprising the steps of:

Art Unit: 2136

- Providing a supplier portal from which new guests indicate, using a Graphical User Interface (GUI) of the supplier portal Web page, whether they are a registered user or not (col. 10, lines 13-21);
- Determining whether a guest is a registered user from input by the guest, and if not a registered user, prompting the guest to select "Register" to link to guest registration (GR) where they can obtain a Web userid/password that enables them to register for any of global procurement applications available under the supplier portal (col. 10, lines 21-28);
- When a guest obtains a Web userid/password in GR, storing guest information in a GR data store (col. 10, lines 28-30);
- Determining whether any applications have been authorized for a registered guest and, if not, prompting the guest to register for restricted applications in a portal common registration (PCR) where information is stored in a PCR data store throughout an application's approval cycle (col. 10, lines 30-47);
- Accessing information from the GR data store to automatically build a customized home page for the guest, this home page being modified and updated as the guest's requests for access to applications get approved (col. 10, line 47 through col. 11, line 11);
- Determining whether approval is needed for a requested application and, if so, sending a request for approval to the application administrator and receiving a response from the application administrator (col. 11, lines 12-35); and
- Storing links to all applications for which the guest is approved, these links being reflected in the personalized supplier portal home page which displays a list of

Best Available Copy

Art Unit: 2136

links to all of the applications for which the guest has been registered and authorized (col. 10, lines 4-12).

Regarding claim 2, Starr teaches further comprising the steps of:

- Defining 1 to n level approval cycles a user must go through to get authorized to access an application (col. 9, lines 20-30);
- Logging in by a registered guest by inputting the guest's userid/password once for each session, as long as applications requested by the guest are in a same realm (col. 8, lines 37-65); and
- Invoking by a logged in guest any of their approved applications by simply clicking the link to the desired application in the guest's customized home page (col. 8, lines 21-25).

Regarding claim 3, Starr teaches wherein the approval cycles are customizable for each application (col. 9, lines 26-30).

Regarding claim 4, Starr teaches wherein the approval cycles are defined for a section of an application, providing a finer level of access control (col. 9, lines 22-26).

Regarding claim 5, Starr teaches wherein application specific registration fields are defined so that a registration form, unique to an application, is displayed when a user requests access to an application (col. 8, lines 37-51).

Art Unit: 2136

Regarding claim 6, the Examiner believes it to be inherent that guests may bookmark applications for later access (because web interfaces can be bookmarked), further comprising the step of prompting by an application a guest to enter their userid/password for authentication against data stored in the GR data store when the application is accessed using a bookmark (when a site is bookmarked that requires authentication, future accesses to the site will require re-authentication).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brandon Hoffman whose telephone number is 703-305-4662. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30 - 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ayaz Sheikh can be reached on 703-305-9648. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

*Brandon Hoffman*

BH

*Ayaz Sheikh*  
AYAZ SHEIKH  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Best Available Copy